

VISIT...

LANZAROTE
Caliente.COM

PREEEEEESENTING...
ANOTHER FINE MESS,
ER, SCAN, THAT IS, BY
THE "GENTLESCAN GHOST",
BEASTCHARMING! FOR
YOUR READING PLEASURE:

EXCALIBUR #25



MARVEL
COMICS

©1990 MARVEL ENT. GROUP, INC.

1.75 US
\$2.25 CAN
25
EARLY AUG
EC 02711

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

THE CROSS-TIME CAPER IS STILL OVER! EXCALIBUR

GALACTUS™
IS COMING
TO DINNER...



...AND
PHOENIX™
IS THE CATCH
OF THE DAY!

GUESS WHO'S COMING FOR PHOENIX?

ONLY MINUTES AGO, EXCALIBUR FINALLY RETURNED HOME-- TO THEIR LIGHTHOUSE ON THE WILDLY BEAUTIFUL WEST COAST OF BRITAIN--

-- AFTER AN INCREDIBLE (AND AT SOME TIMES, SEEMINGLY ENDLESS) ODYSSEY TO THE FARTHEST REACHES OF THE CROSS-TIME CONTINUUM.

ALL OUR HEROES DESIRE-- QUITE UNDERSTANDABLY, LIKE ANYONE AFTER SUCH A GRUELING ROADTRIP-- IS TO CRAWL INTO THEIR COMFY OLD BEDS, IN THEIR COMFY OWN ROOMS, AND TAKE IT NICE AND EASY FOR A GOOD, LONG WHILE.



BY CHRIS CLAREMONT
WRITER

CHRIS WOZNIAK
PENCILS

ALLEN MILGROM
INKS

RICK PARKER
LETTERS

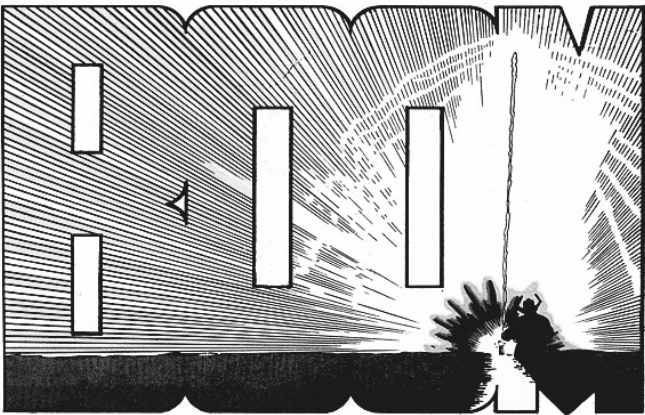
PATY KAVANAGH
COLORIST

TERRY DEVALCO
EDITOR

TOM DEVALCO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



GALACTUS!



WITHIN A HUMAN
HEARTBEAT...

...NOVA'S OUT
OF EARTH'S
ATMOSPHERE--
STILL
ACCELERATING--

-- LEAVING A SONIC
BOOM IN HER WAKE
THAT RATTLES WINDOWS
AS FAR AWAY AS
LONDON.

WITHIN A HALF-DOZEN
MORE, PERHAPS TWICE
AS MANY SECONDS--



WOW!

IS THIS
THE
MOON?!

AM I
STILL
ALIVE?!

NEVER EVEN DREAMED
ANYTHING COULD HIT SO HARD.

MUCH LESS
THAT I'D
SURVIVE.

HAVE YOU SO LITTLE FAITH, HERALD, IN
THE HANDWORK OF HIM WHO MADE
YOU?

THE
WATCHER!

ARE YOU SURE?
GOING TO INTERFERE
LIKE YOU DID WHEN HE
FIRST ENCOUNTERED
THE FANTASTIC
FOUR?!

THOSE
DAYS ARE
DONE.

MY
CHARGE IS BUT
TO OBSERVE
IN THIS, AS
IN ALL THINGS...
FF# 48-50-7K.

...WHAT
WILL BE
WILL BE.

MUSIC TO
MY
EARS!

STAY
TUNED.

I
GUARANTEE
A SHOW
YOU WON'T
SOON
FORGET.

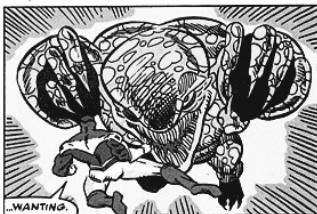
OF THAT,
CHILD, I HAVE
NO DOUBT.

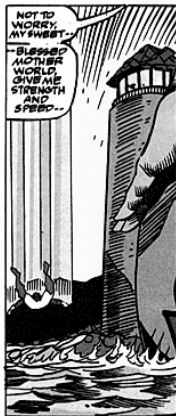


NOR WILL I BROOK THE SLIGHTEST INTERFERENCE.

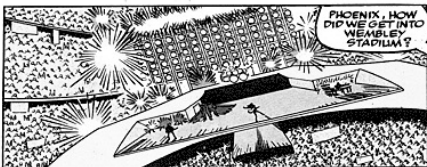
HEED THIS WARNING, MORTALS OR I WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONSEQUENCES--TO YOU OR YOUR WORLD.











OUR TRAIN--THE CAVERN--

--EVERYTHING'S BACK TO NORMAL!

ABSOLUTELY FASCINATING!

THERE MUST BE ENERGIES AROUND THIS NEXUS THAT SOMEHOW RESONATE ACROSS THE CONTINUUM, STRIKING CHORDS ON OTHER WORLDS, OCCASIONALLY OPENING WINDOWS BETWEEN THEM.

BUT ON A RANDOM BASIS, OR IS THERE SOME QUANTIFIABLE, ULTIMATELY PREDICTABLE PATTERN? IS THE INTERFACE SIMPLY AN IMAGE, OR CAN WE MAKE ACTUAL, PHYSICAL CONTACT IF WE CROSS OVER OR SOMEONE FROM THERE COMES HERE, HOW DO WE RETURN?

OR WHAT PASSES FOR IT AROUND HERE.

ALISTAIRE.

ALISTAIRE!

HMM?

PERHAPS WIDGET CAN ASSIST? HE CONSTANTLY REFERS TO HIMSELF AS A TRAINING MODULE--IN OTHER WORDS, A DOORWAY.

OH! DEAR! SORRY, GOT CARRIED AWAY.

AS USUAL.

ACTUALLY, THIS MAKES PERFECT SENSE TO ME.

WHY SHOULDN'T EXCALIBUR LIVE IN A LIGHTHOUSE...

... THAT CAN'T DECIDE ON WHAT DIMENSION ITS ROOMS OCCUPY?

SO-- WHAT'S THIS BRILLIANT IDEA?

IT'S AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE.

HAD IT OUT TO EXAMINE IT MORE CLOSELY.

MOST EXTRAORDINARY ARTIFACT.

GOT INTO A DISCUSSION, Y'SEE, OF TRANS-TEMPORAL RELATIVITY DYNAMICS WITH SOME CHAP FROM GAL-LIFREY.

NOW WHERE THE DEVIL DID I PUT IT? I COULD'VE SWORN--!

THE IMAGE IS STRONG IN YOUR MEMORY.

TRY YOUR POCKET!

?

AHA!

MEANWHILE...



CAREFUL,
EVERYONE.

THESE HORRORS
ARE A FACTOR
MORE
POWERFUL
THAN THEIR
PREDECESSOR!

AND THIS
ONE SEEMS
ABLE TO
FIGHT...

...IN ALL
DIRECTIONS
AT ONCE!

GALACTUS ISN'T
PAYING US THE
SLIGHTEST
ATTENTION.

WHY
SHOULD
HE?

TO HIM
WE'RE
LITTLE
BETTER
THAN
VERMIN.

HE
HAS THESE
CREATURES
TO ROOT US
OUT.

NIGHTCRAWLER,
ARE YOU...Y!

I'M
FINE...

...LOOK
OUT!

GIVE ME
SOME
CREDIT

I'M NOT
COMPLETELY
OWN.

I KNEW IT WAS
THERE.

FOOLISH
BIOFORMS.

THINKING A
DEVICE THEY
DESTROY...

IT'S BEYOND
THE POWER OF
GALACTUS TO
RECONSTRUCT.







NOT MY FRIENDS.
DO YOU
HEAR, NOT
TODAY!

YOU AGURE
TO STOP ME,
STARCHILDE?

YOU GO BACK WHERE YOU
CAME FROM, YOU'VE BROUGHT
ENOUGH GRIEF TO ME
AND MINE--

--LEAVE
US ALONE!

PHOENIX--
IT'S NOVA!

BEEN
WONDERING
WHAT WAS
KEEPING
HER.

YOU AND
ME, PAL,
WE'RE
NOT DONE.

YOUNGSTER, SO LONG AS
A SINGLE STAR BURNS IN
THE FIRMAMENT...

...YOU AND I,
WE'RE NEVER
DONE.

OPEN YOUR PERCEPTIONS
TO MY THOUGHTS, GUYS...

...I'LL FILL YOU
IN BEST I CAN
ON ALSTHAIRE'S
IDEA.

THE ATMOSPHERE
BOOMED
LIKE THE WRATH OF
GOD WHEN SHE
LEFT.

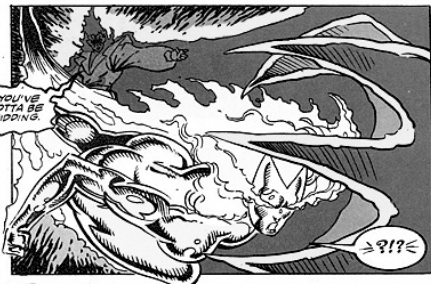
NOW, IT
SCREAMS.

AS SHE BLAZES BARTHWARD,
LEAVING A TRAIL OF SUPERHEATED
FIRE MILES LONG IN HER WAKE...

...BLOOD
IN HER
EYE...

...MURDER
IN HER
HEART--

-DETERMINED TO
GIVE PHOENIX FAR,
FAR BETTER THAN
SHE GOT.



RIGHT ON TARGET!
COVER YOUR EYES,
THE ENERGY FRACTURES
ARE GOING TO BE
BLINDING!



HERE
GOES
NOTHING!



PROFESSOR STUART,
THAT'S A TRANS-TEMPORAL
ANOMALY--

--HAVE YOU THE SLIGHTEST
NOTION OF THE
FORCES YOU'RE
PLAYING WITH?!

IF ALL GOES WELL, THAT'LL
HOPEFULLY BOUNCE GALACTUS
TO THE ULTIMATE
REACHES OF TIME AND
SPACE, AS FAR FROM THE
HERE AND NOW AS ITS
POSSIBLE TO TRAVEL.



YOU
TRULY
THINK
IT'S THAT
EASY--?

YARRGH!



MEG!

MY
HEART--IT
BREAKS!

MY SOUL
BURNS!

FOOLS,
I AM
THE
THEN...



...THE
NOW...
...THE
YET TO
BE.

MINE
OWN ALPHA
AND OHmega,
BEGINNING
AND END.

NO MERE
MECHANISM
IS MY EQUAL,
MUCH LESS
MY BETTER.

I AM
UNHARMED.

NOT
SO MY
HERALD.

FOR THAT,
YOU SHALL
PAY.



NO!



YOU STARTED THIS.

YOU'RE THE ONE TO BLAME!

AND IF IT TAKES ALL THE POWER I CAN DRAW FROM MY MOTHER WORLD...

...I SWEAR YOU'LL DO NO MORE HARM!

MEG, STOP!



LOOK AROUND YOU! LISTEN!

YOU'RE DESTROYING THE VERY WORLD YOU WANT TO SAVE!

I'M SORRY.



OF ALL PEOPLE, I GUESS I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER.

YOU COULD DRAIN THE PLANET DRY...



...YOU'D STILL BE NO MATCH FOR GALACTUS.



IT'S ONLY ONE LIFE HE WANTS.

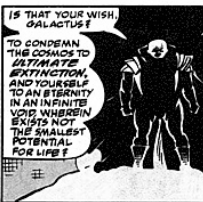


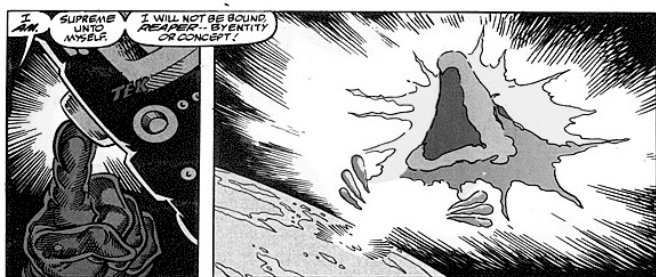
BEST FOR THE WORLD, BEST FOR MY FRIENDS...



...I GIVE IT TO HIM.







ELSEWHERE IN BRITAIN, UNKNOWN TO EXALBID, ON A TRAIN RACING THROUGH THE STILL, SILENT NIGHT...

THEIR MISSING TEAMMATE, KITTY PRYDE (SHADOWCAT)... WHO THEY BELIEVE TRAPPED ON AN ALTERNATE EARTH--

-- SLEEPS AWAY THE TRIP TO SCHOOL.

THIS ISN'T WHERE SHE WANTS TO BE.

IN FACT, HER INITIAL REACTION AT COURTNEY ROSS'S PLAT ON HEARING THE NEWS WAS CHARACTERISTICALLY SHORT AND SUCCINCT--

SOMEONE WILL DIE FOR THIS.

THERE'S NO QUESTION OF YOUR ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS TO ENTER UNIVERSITY, YOUNG LADY.

THANK GOODNESS FOR SMALL FAVORS.

OUR CONCERN IS OVER YOUR SOCIALIZATION.

SAY WHAT?!

YOU'VE SPENT THE PAST FEW YEARS IN A PRIVATE SCHOOL, UNDERGOING AN EDUCATION THAT WAS ESSENTIALLY A ONE-TO-ONE-TUTORIAL.

WHICH MAY LEAVE YOU SOMEWHAT UNPREPARED FOR THE ROUGH-AND-TUMBLE OF UNIVERSITY, WHERE SUCH TREATMENT IS VIRTUALLY NON-EXISTENT.

GREAT, I CAN'T GO TO OXBRIDGE...

...BECAUSE, ESSENTIALLY, I DON'T PLAY WELL WITH OTHERS?



STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN ALL FACETS OF UNIVERSITY LIFE!

THAT'S A CONSIDERABLE ADJUSTMENT IN THE NORMAL COURSE OF EVENTS.

IN YOUR CASE, SINCE YOU'RE SIGNIFICANTLY YOUNGER AND A FOREIGNER TO BOOT...

...WE FEEL IT BEST TO ERR ON THE SIDE OF CAUTION. FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, OF COURSE.

OF COURSE.

A TERM, POSSIBLY A YEAR, IN A QUALITY SECONDARY SCHOOL WILL ALLOW YOU TO PROPERLY ACCLIMATE YOURSELF.



IS HE FOR REAL?

YOU CAN ALWAYS NOT GO.

TO SCHOOL OR UNIVERSITY.

TEACH YOURSELF.

TROUBLE IS, COURTNEY, I WANT TO GO.



THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO DO SO ON THEIR TERMS.

UNTIL SUCH TIME, KITTY, AS YOU MAKE YOUR OWN.

I CAN HARDLY WAIT.

WON'T BE AS BAD AS ALL THAT. ST. CYRIL'S IS NOWHERE NEAR AS STUFFY AS IT SOUNDS.



AFTER ALL, I WENT THERE.

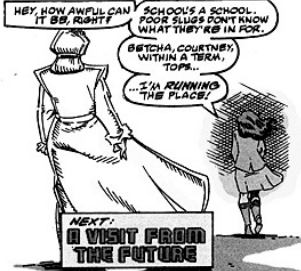
DIDN'T DO ME ANY DAMAGE.



HERE ARE YOUR TICKETS. EVERYTHING'S ARRANGED.

SO THIS IS IT, HUH?

I GOTTA GO!



HEY, HOW AWFUL CAN IT BE, RIGHT?

SCHOOLS A SCHOOL. POOR SLUGS DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE IN FOR.

BETCHA, COURTNEY, WITHIN A TERM, TOPS...

...I'M RUNNING THE PLACE!

NEXT:
A VISIT FROM THE FUTURE



STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes! Wanna know why comic book column writers get gray? Try this on for size—

A fewishes back I told you to watch for "Into Thin Air," the new Larry Cohen movie in which some of your favorite Bullpeners play cameo roles. So far so good, right? Well, uh! Larry just told me the title was changed to "Ambulance." Naturally, by the time he told me, the Soapbox column touting the other title had already been printed!

Well, to avoid any future foul-ups, just watch for a new thriller which may or may not be called "Ambulance," featuring my co-star, Eric Roberts! ("Co-star" may, I share the screen with him for almost thirty whole seconds! And, in case you're wondering, yeah, he's pretty good, too!)

By the way, have you noticed the many new comic book titles and companies popping up? Recently, someone said he was sorry we're having all this competition. I told him to save his sympathy! I mean, competition is what it's all about! Nothing like the sound of another comics company breathing down our necks to make us work even harder! And who benefits by it a? Hey, who else but you, the readers, who keep us alive by shelling out your shekels for our mag! If we give you what you want, you'll buy us! If not, it's goodbye, Charlie! And that's the way it should be!

You've been wonderfully loyal to us over the years, and no words of mine can fully express our gratitude. That's why I make you this pledge—we'll never stop busin' our chops to give you the best we've got, to prove worthy of your support, to excite you, to amuse you and, for better or worse, to always level with you! Fact is, there's no way we'll ever forget our earliest adage... "We're nothing without you!"

Excelsior!

Stan

CHECKLIST

No checklist this month, Guys and Guernseys. If you want to find out what's on sale, check out last month's Bullpen Bulletins page. Meanwhile, here's some extra boxes you can practice checking off.

☒	GOOD	☐
☒	BAD	☐
☐		☐
☐		☐
☐		☐
☐		☐
☐		☐
☐		☐

JUNE, as hyperprolific Marvel Executive Editor-slash-Wisconsinite **Mark Gruenwald** always fails to remind us, is National Dairy Month. You know what that means? Yes, that's right, it's time once again for our first annual stroll around the Marvel neighborhood, to see how dairy products affect us in our everyday lives. Perhaps we should get ultracrisse dresser Assistant Editor **Darryl Butter** (er, **Darryl Dutter**) to accompany us on this little venture? Perhaps not.

The first stop on our sojourn is the local New York Smiler deli. We head toward the refrigerated dairy section in all its pre-packaged splendor. We spy the milk cartons, and are reminded of the happy days of our youth, reading comics by the fireplace, while sipping Bosco and milk. Not everyone has had so fortunate a childhood, however, and Marvel has recently been trying to do something about it.

Marvel has joined forces with the National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse and the K-Mart Corporation to produce a comic book featuring **Spider-Man** and **Skids** of the New Mutants, dealing with child abuse. The comic will be distributed through K-Mart, and given out free to any parent who asks for it.

The comic came out in April, which, as neo-father-slash-GHOST RIDER-writer **Howard Mackie** could tell us, is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Certainly preventing child abuse is a high priority for our readers, and non-parents alike. Another priority, of course, is reminding children and non-children alike that milk is good for strong teeth and bones.

One guy who draws excellent teeth and great bones is megastar **Jim** ("Don't call me happy") **Lee**. (No relation to Stan.) If Jim drew a happy guy, he'd really have a reason to smile now, since he is now regular penciler of the X-MEN, beginning with issue #268.

Todd McFarlane, on the other hand, is always happy to smile for us. The incredibly popular squiggly-web-drawing Spider-Man is going better than ever, and he's now back featuring the adjective-less **Captain Man**. Todd is both writing and drawing this one, surely cause for a celebration. Tell Aunt May to stock up on extra milk and cookies!

Well, we've lingered over the dairy counter so long the shop owner is beginning to stare at us in a peculiar way. Let's move on. As we reach the check-out counter, we spot the latest issue of the much-informative, ultrastigmatized **SOAP OPERA WEEKLY** magazine. We can't help but recall the April 10th issue of **SOW**, which featured an interview with the second lady of American theater, **Elaine Lee**. (No relation to Stan.) Elaine spoke of her ersatz-life on the more-than-a-soap-opera-more-like-a-dramatic-ongoing-story TV show, **THE DOCTORS**, and her work on the if-comics-could-sing-the-world-would-sing-with-them **STEELTOWN ROCKERS**. Although Elaine made no mention of dairy products in the interview, we have to wonder if the thought of them might have crossed her mind.

We are reminded of the Wall of Bovines in the office of Epic's own super hard-working assistant editor, **Marie Javins**. Marie has had some of the biggest names in the business contribute drawings of cows to her wall. Among them: **Jim Lee**,

Jay Muth, **Mike Mignola**, and **Sergio Aragones**. Now you see why it's called the Marvel Bullpen.

We exit the New York Smiler, and continue our stroll around the Marvel neighborhood. What's playing at the local theater? **THE STORY OF CHEESE**, perhaps? No, that was last week. This week, it's **ROBOCOP 2**, co-scripted by the hyperhot **he-was-doing-ninjas-when-ninjas-weren't-cool** **Frank Miller**. We are reminded of the first cinematic adaptation of this ultraprofane film, which we might urge you to pick up, if you need your US RDA of lip-puckering, justice-dispensing cyborgs. It's by **Alan Grant**, **Mark Bagley**, and **Tony DeZuniga**—all firm believers in the separation of the four basic food groups.

Why, look! It's a record store! Wasn't there a mega-prooby group a few decades back known as the **Cowells**? Why, sure there was! Maybe we can score one of their old albums on compact disc. While our fingers browse almost of their own accord, we happen upon the brand-new CD by the not-quite-yet-but-soon-to-be-a-mega-prooby **the Buddha Singers**. The album is called "I'm Gonna Love You 'Til I Don't," and it features back-up vocals on one song by the Buddha Singers. As fate would have it, three of the Buddha singers are Marvel's own—the low-headed neo-Editor **Mike Rockwitz**, colorist-par-excel-lence **Steve Meyers**, and the Chain's smiling Direct Sales Manager **Lou Bank**. As Lou described it, "Otis serenaded us outside our window, and this inspired us to sing with him. It was one of the most sentimental moments of my life." Lou predicts that Otis Ball and the Chain will be "bigger than the sliced wheel."

And...and... A probable cheese reference. Further proof that dairy products have become part of the American culture. Why, someone would have to be a fool to not include dairy products as part of his/her everyday diet. Which reminds us, appropriately enough, that June is also the release of the first issue of the **FOOL-KILLER** Limited Series.

It's scripted by ultra eccentric **Howard** the Duck creator **Steve Gerber**, with art by the meta-talented newcomer to Marvel, **Jim Birch**. Steve created the Foolkiller character in the early seventies in an issue of the much-classic **MAR-TIME** series. Now there's a whole new nutcase in the Foolkiller suit, and he's re-defined the meaning of the word "fool." We wonder if this might include those who won't drink their milk!

Well, it's getting late, and our trip round the neighborhood has come to an end. We're tired—but it's a good kind of tired. As we reflect back on our day, we can't help but realize what a large role such products as cheese, butter, and milk play in our lives. But some of us enjoy them perhaps a little too much. In a recent study, it was revealed that Wisconsin adults weighed in as the nation's most obese in a national survey—for the third consecutive year! The reason for their pleasant plumpness? Seems it's their high consumption of dairy products like cheese and butter. Perhaps there's a lesson to be learned here. (Say, isn't the pre-obese non-serial killer **Mark Gruenwald** from Wisconsin?)

Gotta scoot!